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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 PA-02 ISO-00 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 SS-15 /074 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:CEK
APPROVED BY NEA/P - R E UNDELAND
PA/PRS - MR CARTER
H - MR FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
----------039750 020202Z /66
O 020051Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
SECDEF WASHDC 0000
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 1, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 1. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU HAD ANY REACTION FROM THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT YOUR EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT?

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ANSWER: I HAVEN'T. I SAW SOME PUBLIC COMMENTS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER--THAT'S ALL THAT I KNOW ABOUT.

QUESTION: YESTERDAY YOU SUPPORTED THE DECISION OF THE LEBANESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BY SENDING THE 500-MAN UNIT TO THE SOUTH.

ANSWER: YES.

QUESTION: YESTERDAY AND TODAY, THIS UNIT HAS BEEN SHELLED BY ISRAELI-BACKED FORCES IN THE SOUTH. HAVE YOU GOT ANY COMMENT ON THIS--OR ARE YOU TRYING TO DO ANYTHING TO ALLOW THE EXECUTION OF YOUR SUPPORT?

ANSWER: LET ME REPEAT MYSELF: I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY COMMENT. OUR REPORTS TEND TO BE BOTH FRAGMENTARY AND NOT MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT YOU SEE IN THE PAPER, OR HEAR ON THE RADIO, OR WHAT HAVE YOU. IT'S A VERY FLUID AND COMPLICAT-ED SITUATION AND I DON'T THINK I CAN HELP IT BY COMMENTING AT THIS POINT.

BUT I WANT TO REPEAT THAT POINT OF YESTERDAY: WE DO SUP-

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PORT THIS MOVE BY THE LEBANESE ARMY AS DOES THE UNITED NATIONS.

I WOULD NOTE, AS YOU HAVE SEEN ON THE WIRES, THAT TODAY IS ARMY DAY IN LEBANON, AND PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS CALLED FOR SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL ARMY HIS GOVERNMENT IS BUILDING. WE THINK THAT THAT NEW NATIONAL ARMY IS ESSENTIAL FOR LEBANON'S FUTURE.

NOW I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT I CAN OFFER MUCH COMMENT ON THE SITUAITON TAKING PLACE AS THEY DEPLOY THE TROOPS SOUTHWARD; BUT WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA--INCLUDING THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT--AND HAVE MADE OUR POSITION KNOWN ON THIS DEPLOYMENT.
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AGAIN TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY: WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE WITH INFLUENCE ON THE SOUTH LEBANON SITUAITON, SHOULD HELP FACILITATE REESTABLISHMENT OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY IN THAT REGION.

QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE IF THE SYRIAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE WERE TO WITHDRAW THAT IT MIGHT HELP ESTABLISH THE AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL ARMY OF LEBANON?

ANSWER: I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT AS WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH THIS ROUND BEFORE, AS TO WHY THEY ARE THERE. END.

2. THE FOLLOWING ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING JULY 31 WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AUGUST 1:

QUESTION: DID EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY OF STATE SEND A LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON, ASKING RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THE ISRAELIS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE HAD ONGOING EXCHANGES WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE EXCHANGES OR PROVIDE A LISTING OF WHEN WE DEALT WITH WHOM ON THIS SUBJECT. END. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE194464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBHARRIS:CEK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780315-0550
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808106/aaaadlgz.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 78fd8a58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1559335
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 1, 1978
TAGS: SOPN, XF, US
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/78fd8a58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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